

Absolutist Prussia



The Holy Roman Empire



Art Credit: [David Liuzzo](#) & [N3MO](#)

The Holy Roman Empire



*“Neither Holy,
nor Roman,
nor an Empire!”*

-- Voltaire

constat 3 fl 16 kr. 5000. 1552. Lippia in munitis Walpurgis.
Landungs paratam. was bis zum die 27. Junij hora 8. pon.

Das heilig Römisch reich

mit sampt seinen geliden.



Confederation



Brandenburg



Map Credit: [Astrokey44](#)



The Sandbox

of the Holy Roman Empire

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Brandenburg- Prussia



Art Credit:
[David Liuzzo](#)



GROWTH OF BRANDENBURG-PRUSSIA 1600-1795



Hohenzollern Dynasty



“The Fredericks”

Frederick William

(r. 1640-1688)



The “Great Elector”

Father of Prussian
Absolutism

Frederick William I

(r. 1713-1740)

The “Soldier
King”

Soldatenkönig



Frederick II “the Great”

(r. 1740-1786)



**Enlightened
Absolutist**

**Friend of
Voltaire**



“A formidable army and a war chest large enough to make this army mobile in times of need can create great respect for you in the world, so that you can speak a word like the other powers.”

-- Frederick William I

MILITARISM



Carl Röchling (d. 1920), *Attack of the Prussian Infantry*

MILITARISM

12TH

Largest
Population



Carl Röchling (d. 1920), *Attack of the Prussian Infantry*

MILITARISM

12TH

Largest
Population

4TH

Largest
Army

Carl Röchling (d. 1920), *Attack of the Prussian Infantry*

MILITARISM



**Armies from Russia to the United States
adopted the Prussian drill model.**

Carl Röchling (d. 1920), *Attack of the Prussian Infantry*

Baron von Steuben

**Trained Washington's
Continental Army in
Prussian-style drill**





“Sparta of the North”



**THIS... IS...
SPARTA!**

A low-angle, side-profile photograph of a line of Italian soldiers. They are wearing camouflage uniforms and red berets, looking upwards and to the right with disciplined expressions. The background is a clear blue sky. The word "DISCIPLINE" is overlaid in large white letters across the middle of the image.

DISCIPLINE

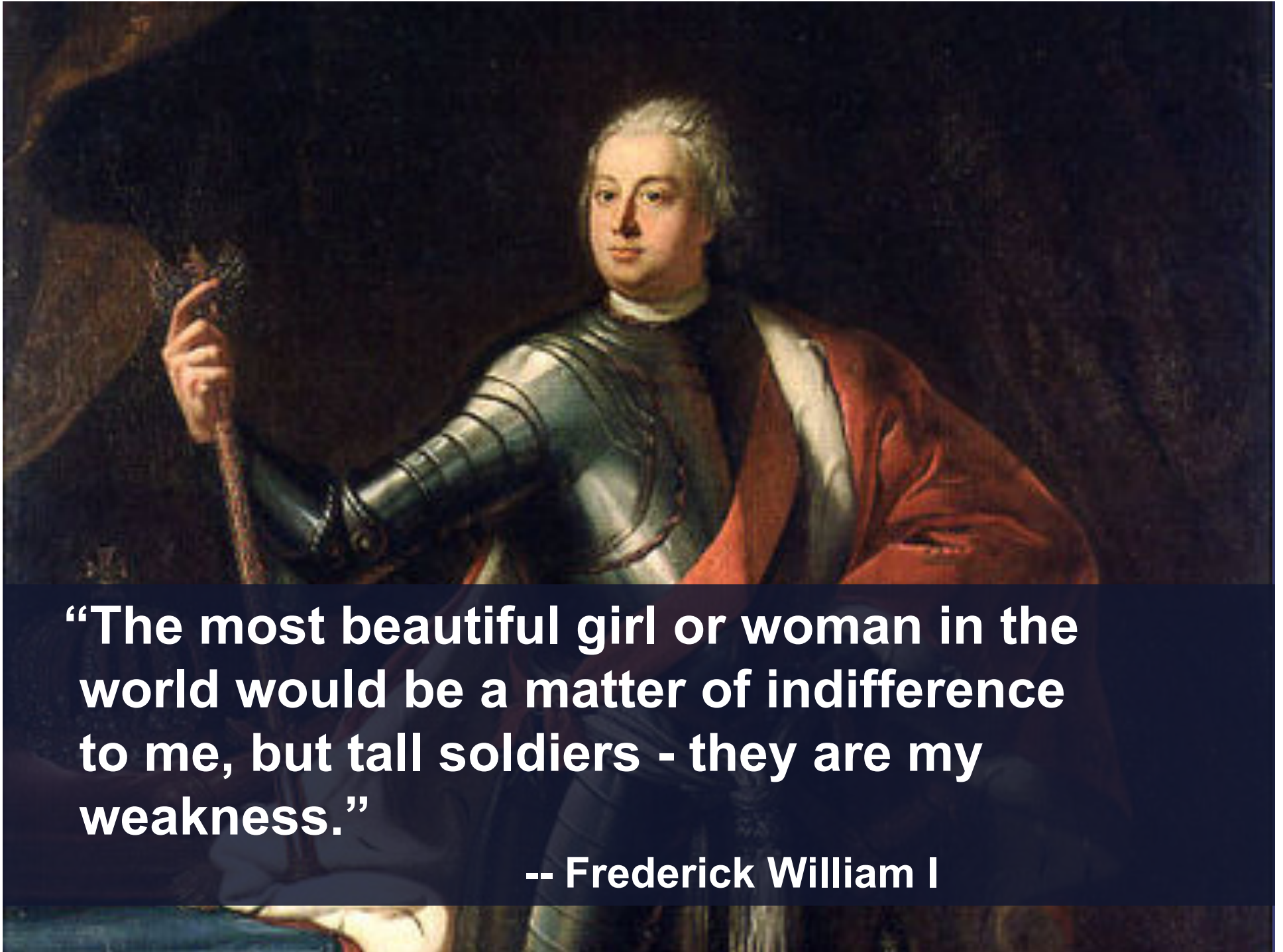
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“All successful rulers keep God before their eyes and have no mistresses or, rather, whores, and lead a godly life...”

-- Frederick William I



*Marie Angélique de Scorailles,
one of Louis XIV's many mistresses*



“The most beautiful girl or woman in the world would be a matter of indifference to me, but tall soldiers - they are my weakness.”

-- Frederick William I



Potsdam GIANTS

Internationally-recruited
regiment of tall soldiers



“Everything must be committed except eternal salvation – that belongs to God, but all else is mine.”

-- Frederick William I

Building an Absolutist State

Church	Protestant Religious Toleration
Nobility (Junkers)	Cooperation (Service Nobility)
Representative Bodies (Estates)	Reduced Power Taxation by Decree
Education	Compulsory Public Education (1 st system of its kind)

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